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NEWBURN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1943.

OFFICERS OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Office.	Officer.	Qualifications.
Medical Officer of Health.	Guy B. Picton.	M.B., B.S.
Chief Sanitary Inspector.	Thos. Wm. Walton.	M.R.San I., M.S.I.A. Cert. S.I.B., Meat & Food Inspector's Cert. R.S.I., Sanitary Science Cert. R.S.I. Diploma - Inst. of Hygiene. A.R.P.S. Instructor (First Class).
Additional Sanitary Inspector.	John Corney.	A.R.San.I. M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B.
Senior Health Visitor.	Mrs. D. Linskey.	Health Visitor's Cert., R.S.I., C.M.B., S.R.N.
Assistant Health Visitor.	Miss E. Heslop.	Health Visitor's Cert., R.S.I., C.M.B., S.R.N.
Clerks.	Mrs. M. Spears. Miss J. Mansfield.	

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Newburn Urban-District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my second annual report.

In accordance with Circulars 10/44 and 2773 the report is to be brief and confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the public health during the year. Statistics are to be preserved with a view to the submission of a comprehensive report at the end of the war.

The general health in the district has been good. About August we unfortunately had an outbreak of diphtheria chiefly at Newburn. The type in some cases was rather severe. It was noted that where we had overcrowding and filth, cases were likely to occur. With a lot of mothers doing war work I am sorry to say children were not looked after as they ought to have been. It is not an uncommon thing to find children roaming the streets late at night when they ought to have been either in bed or certainly in the house. I have been very disturbed about this matter.

IMMUNISATION :

Great results have been obtained in children 1 - 5 years. It is absolutely necessary to carry the treatment out properly - 3 injections of T.A.F. In cases of children 1 - 5 years who have had the full course we did not have a single case of diphtheria.

Some of the schoolchildren who had been immunised contracted the disease. In most of the cases they had been immunised once, it is now necessary to have 2 injections for a course of treatment. I think children should have a course of treatment directly they commence school at 5 years, again between 7 and 8 years and between 10 and 12 years.

One of the most annoying features of the outbreak was the number of carriers. I have tried in all cases to have everyone who has been in contact or living in the house to have their throat swabbed. Of course as a result we have had a number of positive swabs but these people were not ill and as a result their stay in hospital was very short.

Despite our efforts to have all children immunised some have not responded. Miss Heslop spent a lot of time going round to houses to try to get these children immunised. Most of them responded but a few have taken no notice. However I shall try again.

WAR TIME NURSERY :

This was opened in February, 1943, and has been a great success. Miss Stead was appointed Matron but had to relinquish her post owing to ill health. Later she died and I am sure most people will remember the great work she did as Health Visitor for the Council for several years. After Miss Stead's retirement Mrs. Moore was appointed Matron and she has filled the post with great tact and reliability. We can take about 40 children - our weekly average being approximately 30 children. It is remarkable how well the children do and they all seem to put on weight and you can always see in a new case great improvement in 6 weeks. The health of the children has been exceptionally good.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE :

No. of live births 366.
No of children who attended Welfare Centre.. 1131.

HOME VISITING :

The Health Visitors made a total of 2,759 visits.

ANTE-NATAL :

I think we will have a record of attendance at our clinic. During the year 402 expectant mothers attended and out of 366 births for the district 273 cases were Admitted to Dilston Hall Maternity Home.

What I would like is a Maternity Home of our own.

SCABIES :

Scabies has been well kept under control. We get cases notified from the School Medical Officer and the children attend at the Health Department for treatment and so there is no delay now in getting them back to school.

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN :

The number of illegitimate children born was 15.

TUBERCULOSIS :

There has been an increase of new cases notified compared with the previous year i.e. 45 as against 28 in 1942.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Partioulars of	Area (in acres)	4,649
<u>District</u>	Registrar General's	
	Est. of Population.	19,190
	No. of inhabited	
	houses according to	
	rate books.	5,518
	Sum represented by a	
	Penny Rate.	£414.
	Rateable value	
	31st March, 1944.	£104,693.

Extracts from Vital Statistics :

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Live Births (legitimate)	366	190	176
-do- (illegitimate)	15	8	7
Stillbirths.	11	4	7
Deaths.	240	133	107
Birth rate per 1,000 population.		19.85	
Stillbirths per 1,000 Live & Still births.		28.61	
Death rate per 1,000 Estimate Population.		12.5	

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 live</u> <u>and still births.</u>
Puerperal Sepsis.	---	---
Other Puerperal Causes	---	---

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year :

All infants per 1,000 live births.	49.84.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate	
live births.	46.44
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate	
live births.	133.33

Deaths :

Deaths from Cancer - all ages.	35.
" " Measles " "	-
" " Whooping Cough "	2.
" " Diarrhoea... under 2 years.	1.

Causes of Death in the Newburn Area, 1943.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
All causes	133	107

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid.	-	-
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever.	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever.	-	-
4. Whooping Cough.	1	1
5. Diphtheria.	1	2
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	5	9
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis.	1	2
8. Syphilitic diseases.	3	-
9. Influenza.	1	1
10. Measles.	-	-
11. Acute Polio-myelitis.	-	-
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis.	-	1
13. Cancer.	16	19
14. Diabetes.	-	-
15. Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions.	18	11
16. Heart disease.	41	23
17. v Other disease of circulatory system.	7	5
18. Bronchitis.	8	10
19. Pneumonia.	7	4
20. Other respiratory diseases	1	1
21. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.	2	-
22. Diarrhoea under 2 years.	-	1
23. Appendicitis.	-	1
24. Other digestive diseases.	1	1
25. Nephritis.	1	1
26. Puerperal sepsis.	-	-
27. Other maternal causes.	-	-
28. Premature birth.	1	4
29. Congenital debility, malformation etc.	4	-
30. Suicide.	-	-
31. Road traffic accident.	-	-
32. Other violent causes.	5	1
33. All other causes.	9	9

Section B :

- (1) Public Health Officials - see page 2.
- (11) a. Laboratory facilities remain the same as in former years,
- b. Ambulance Service - see Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.
- c. Nursing in the home is controlled by the Northumberland County Council.
- d. The only treatment centre controlled by this Authority is the Sun-Ray Clinic.
- e. There are no hospitals in the area with the exception of the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Lemington, administered by the West Northumberland Joint Hospital Board of which this Council is a constituent member.
- (2) (Medical Officers of Health of Counties and County Boroughs only).

Sections C.D. & E. See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Section F : Prevalence of and control over
Infectious and other diseases.

The following table gives the number and age groups of the cases of Infectious disease notified during the year. The notifications include 55 cases of Whooping Cough and 104 cases of Diphtheria.

Disease	NUMBER OF CASES													Hospital	Deaths.
	Age Group														
	At all ages	Under 1 Yr.	1/ 2	2/ 3	3/ 4	4/ 5	5/ 10	10/ 15	15/ 20	20/ 35	35/ 45	45/ 65	65 & over		
Smallpox.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	49	-	-	-	4	6	19	13	4	1	-	-	-	44	-
Diphtheria	104	-	2	1	6	3	40	25	11	15	-	-	-	105	3
Enteric (including Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	25	1	1	-	1	-	2	2	4	4	3	4	3	11	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
E.C.S.M.	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery.	97	3	-	-	16	12	59	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.	97	7	16	10	18	11	33	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gastro-Enteritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chickenpox.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS :

During the year 45 new cases have been notified
35 pulmonary and 10 non-pulmonary.

The following table shows the age distribution of
the new cases and of the deaths of persons certified
to be due to tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis, 1943.

Age Periods.	Cases Notified.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
1 to 5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
5 to 15	5	1	5	3	-	-	-	-
15 to 25	7	5	-	2	-	1	-	-
25 to 35	4	1	-	-	1	4	-	-
35 to 45	-	4	-	-	1	4	-	-
45 to 55	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 to 65	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 and over.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.	22	13	5	5	5	9	1	2

G.B. PICTON,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

NEUBURN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR, 1943.

To Dr. Guy B. Picton, M.B., B.S.

Sir,

I beg to submit to you the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1943. This report covers the work of my predecessor Mr. T.W. Walton who resigned in February this year to take up an appointment with the Long Eaton Urban District Council.

Housing :

As in 1942, work in connection with housing defects was limited to the investigation of complaints. Difficulty in getting repairs done was again experienced owing to shortage of labour and materials.

Water :

There is no change in the water supply of the district.

Drainage and Sewerage :

No change has been made in the drainage and sewerage systems during the year.

Closet Accommodation :

The closet accommodation remains substantially the same as at the end of 1939.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse :

The refuse collection and disposal is carried out by the Surveyor's Department.

Sanitary Inspection of the District :

Routine inspections have had to be curtailed owing to additional work occasioned by the war, but conditions throughout the area are fairly satisfactory.

Meat and Food Inspection :

Owing to centralised slaughtering of cattle, meat inspection is carried out only periodically at Butchers' shops.

The following foods have been condemned and surrendered.

22 $\frac{3}{4}$ store beef.	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs sausage.
53 $\frac{1}{2}$ " fish	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs sugar.
24 lbs. bacon.	12 lbs jam.
38 lbs. cheese.	60 lbs chocolate.
168 lbs. butter	742 tins of various canned goods.
3 lbs lard.	

Milk Supply :

Inspection of cowsheds and dairies and milk sampling were carried out as far as possible. The following statement shows the number and result of examinations carried out :-

	<u>Local</u>	<u>Produced outside area</u>
No. of samples collected.	38	27
Samples examined by Methylene Blue Reduction Test	38	20
Samples examined for Tubercle Bacilli.	21	10

Methylene Blue Reduction Test :

Of the 38 samples produced in the district 26 or 68.4% were satisfactory.

Of the 20 samples produced outside the district 11 or 55% were satisfactory.

Tubercle Bacilli :

21 samples of milk produced in the district were examined of which 1 was positive.

10 samples of milk produced outside the district were examined of which 2 were positive.

Pasteurised Milk :

7 samples of Pasteurised milk were obtained and 2 only conformed with the prescribed standard.

Eradication of bed-bugs :

The same steps were taken as in previous years.

Public Health Propaganda :

The scheme of Public Health Propaganda was continued throughout the year.

Billeting :

During the year 52 persons have been billeted in the district.

Ambulance Service :

During the year the number of patients carried was 2,362 of which 117 were accident cases.

Sanction having been obtained from the Ministry of Health an A.R.P. ambulance of framed canvass bodywork was converted into a metal-panelled vehicle, the work being carried out by A.R.P. personnel and the Council's mechanic. The vehicle has proved entirely satisfactory.

J. CORNEY,

SANITARY INSPECTOR.